



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/674,141 | 09/29/2003 | Wesley Erhart | 16086RRUS01U (22171.367) | 2489 |
| 27683 7590 10/08/2008 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 Main Street Suite 3100 Dallas, TX 75202 | | | EXAMINER AL AUBAIDI, RASHA S | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2614 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 10/08/2008 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/674,141 | Applicant(s) ERHART, WESLEY | |
| | Examiner RASHA S. AL AUBAIDI | Art Unit 2614 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimoto et al. (US PAT # 5,241,533).

Regarding claim 1, Kimoto teaches a method for transmission over packet networks, the method comprising: detecting, at a first node at least one next node (the detecting limitation is inherent. without detecting a destination node no packet will be transmitted); creating a channel between the first node and the at least one next node (see Fig. 1); receiving, at the first node, a first packet (see col. 3, lines 18-20); detecting a protocol (this is inherent) of the first packet.

Kimoto does not specifically teach “merging the first packet with a second packet of the same protocol” and “transmitting the merged first packet...etc”.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to merge and transmit any number of packets, since merged packets provide an enhanced VOIP quality.

Claims 4, 10 and 15 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. The claimed “interface” as recited in claim 10 is inherent as well as the claimed “processor” and “port”. The claimed “threshold” as recited in claims 4 and 15, see col. 4, lines 5-31.

Regarding claims 2-3 and 14, having the first and the second packet containing circuit-based information is obvious. One may choose to have the packet containing any type of information desired. Thus, this is considered a design choice that does not rise to the level of patentability.

Regarding claims 5 and 7, this limitation is obvious because one of an ordinary skill in the art may choose the threshold to be at any desired level. On one hand, one can set the threshold to be the minimum quality. Other can choose the threshold to be the maximum quality. On the other hand, the threshold in Kimoto is set for failure and redundancy purposes.

Regarding claim 6, Kimoto teaches rejecting a communication related to the first packet (this may read not being able to transmit the packet to one node due to temporary concentrated traffic for example, see col. 3, lines 35-43).

For claims 8 and 12 limitations, this is obvious one may choose to have the node

Art Unit: 2614

to be is an existing media gateway or any other element. .

For claims 9, 11 and 13, Kimoto teaches node is connected to a circuit-switched voice network (see abstract).

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rasha S AL-Aubaidi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (571) 272-7488.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Rasha S AL-Aubaidi/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614